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style of the authors is simple, straightforward, and readable, the problems are clearly stated, and the suggestions for their solution are set forth clearly and concisely. Both the selection of the materials for the text and suggestions that are given for the solution of these questions could not have come from other than men who have had much experience and actual contact with the rural schools. The plan of the book with the discussion and study questions makes it well suited for a help to teachers in their work in institutes and public meetings, or for a private study of the modern problems of rural education. An appreciation of the importance and magnitude of the questions of rural education is shown by the authors, and the suggestions for a solution are not beyond the limits of possibility. In fact, very many actual illustrations now in successful operation throughout the United States are described and included in a well-selected list of illustrations. The modern demand for efficiency in every activity of life is set forth, and while the difficulties are fully apprehended, an optimism as to the final outcome and success of our developing American school system is expressed everywhere throughout the book. The curriculum of the rural school, old and new, is dealt with, the part and place of vacation work as a factor in the educative process is fully recognized. Every aspect of the teacher and the rural school, the questions of consolidation and administration of rural schools are taken up. It is made clear that the new rural school adequate to meet the needs and demands of the age just ahead of us will not be stereotyped or copied from another system and handed down to any community, but instead will be based on the actual resources and needs of the community it is to serve.

JOHN C. WERNER

MANHATTAN, KAN.

Introduction to Botany. By JOSEPH G. BERGEN and OTIS W. CALDWELL.
Boston: Ginn & Co. Pp. vii+368. \$1.10.

This book is written chiefly to meet the needs of those secondary schools that offer a short course on the study of plants. It is brief yet comprehensive enough to give the boys and girls who cannot go farther than the high school a meaningful understanding of their plant surroundings. If supplemented with the proper amount and kind of laboratory work the book can be used to the greatest advantage in any class taking only a short course in botany.

The earlier chapters give a general idea of the seed plant and its parts as a working unit. The succeeding chapters to xiii take up the work and structure of each part more in detail. Roots, food manufacture, transportation, and uses to plant, stems, and leaves (both ordinary and special forms), forestry, flowers and seed with their ecological phrases and relations to variation and hybridization are all given a rather terse but specific treatment. The latter part of the book discusses the evolutionary sequence with a very few types to show the series. The relations of plants to industry and a few points on weeds make a fitting close of a course of botany.

The practical values and applications of each phase are treated as soon as a topic is completed. Generally this is done in a special chapter, although in some instances it is taken care of in the discussion of the topic. This arrangement is a very commendable feature of the book. It reduces to a minimum the difficulty of seeing relations between plants and their economic values, whereas if the applications are left to the end of the course there is greater possibility for confusion.

The facts are well chosen and organized. They are stated in concise yet clear English. Enough detail is given to make the topics plain; the illustrations are carefully selected. For those schools that give only short courses this book no doubt will be found to be very serviceable. The introduction of the biography of some of the mileposts of botany is a good feature. These, if studied in their proper relations to plants, will certainly give the pupils a greater appreciation of the work in botany.

CHARLES E. MONTGOMERY

Vocations for the Trained Woman. By the WOMAN'S EDUCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL UNION. New York: Longmans, Green & Co. 8vo, pp. xiv+175. \$1.50, postage 16 cents.

This book is Part II of Vol. I in a series of studies in the economic relations of women being conducted by the department of research of the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union of Boston.

It treats specifically four vocations—agriculture, social service, secretarial service, and the business of real estate. Each study is based upon a specific survey, that of agriculture being limited to the state of Massachusetts, social service to New England cities and towns, real estate to the city of Boston and suburbs. The study of secretarial service includes cases from various parts of the United States.

The study of agriculture includes not only its general phases, but also poultry-raising, beekeeping, market gardening, dairying, greenhouse culture, and nursery culture. General conditions in each business are discussed, showing the difficulties and pointing out the qualifications necessary to success. Special attention is given to the peculiar problems to be met by women undertaking each kind of work.

In the field of agriculture it appears that poultry-raising offers exceptional advantages for women. Social work is a field of service for which women are pre-eminently fitted. While it does not command unusually high salaries, it offers other compensation. "The whole field of special service is demanding specialized training, and the day is not far distant when untrained workers will be welcome only as volunteers."

It appears that certain phases of the real-estate business offer excellent opportunities for the trained woman. It is believed that women are much better adapted to the renting of houses for residences than are men. Experi-